Ministry has set up an Overseas Workers' Resource Centre with a 12/7 helpline to provide an avenue to potential emigrants for accessing information on legal migration channels. To actively build awareness amongst potential emigrants about the risks involved in illegal migration and the precautions to be taken during the migration process a multimedia publicity campaign has been launched.

The Ministry is undertaking emigration reforms to make the emigration process simple, transparent and efficient. We have done away with the requirement of exit clearance for those travelling on visit visa to save non-emigrants from undue inconvenience, harassment and expenditure. This is also aimed at curbing Corruption in the emigration system. The Ministry has libealized the criteria for issue of passports to save educated people from undue inconvenience, harassment and expenditure. The Ministry is committed to apply the emigration controls only in respect of vulnerable sections of emigrants in order to ensure their protection and welfare. To protect women emigrants from exploitation, their emigration on ECR passport to ECR countries is allowed only above the age of 30 years and their labour contracts must be attested by the Indian Missions concerned. The emigration clearance system has been computerized recently. A comprehensive e-governance project will be implemented to transform the emigration system into a technology managed process, linking all stakeholdes for online verification/validation of information to prevent malpractices like emigration on forged documents. The regulatory system for recruting agents is being made more stringent.

At the bilateral level the Ministry has been actively pursuing the signing of formal MoUs with the major labour receiving countries not only to secure their commitment towards the protection and welfare of Indian workers but also aimed at streamlining the deployment procedures and removing the loopholes in the system. In December 2006 the Government signed an MoU with the UAE and in April 2007 with Kuwait. In November 2007 an additional Ptotocol with Quatar was signed to update the 1985 Agreement. MoU are being finalized Malaysia and Oman. MoU are also being pursued with Bahrain and Yemen. Further, to supplement the Agreement the Government of India had signed with the Government of Tordanm 1988, it is proposed to Sign an Additional Protocol to the 1988 Agreement. Efforts are on to persuade the KSA to negotiate an MoU on labour with India.

At the multilateral level we have signed an MoU with the IOM for implementing the Asia-EU project for Regional Dialogue and Program for facilitating legal migration between Asia and the EU countries. The project is already under implementation and will give us an opportunity for capacity building towards migration management and develop overseas employment market in the strategically important European countries and upgrade the Indian workers in the wage chain.

Rising property prices

*216. DR. M. A. M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the real estate property prices are rising rapidly in the country;

(b) if so, the rise in real estate property prices during the last three years;

(c) the reasons for such rise in prices of real estate properties;

(d) whether Government proposes to set up any regulary body to regulator the real estate sector;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (f) Rise in real estate prices has been observed in recent years. The Ministry of Urban Development does not maintain data on prices of real estate. The reasons for rise could be related to fast growth rates and market factors. As per Entry 5 of the State List in the 7th Schedule of the Constitution of India "Local Government" is a State subject. The regulation of activities of property developer and builders comes under the purview of state Governments, Urban Local Bodies/Development Authorities under the provisions of State Town & Country Planning/City Development Authority Acts. However, the Government is considering formulation of a Real Estate Management (Regulation and Control) Bill, which will be applicable to the National Capital Territory of Delhi and will also act as a model legislation for other states. The Bill is at a draft stage.

Implementation of Yamuna Action Plan

♦217. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the progress so far made in the implementation of the Yamuna Action Plan and the expenditure incurred thereon so far;

(b) whether the Plan has so far failed in its object; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) The Government of India has undertaken Yamuna Action Plan (YAP) for abatement of pollution of river Yamuna with the assistance from Japan Bank for International Cooperation. Government of Japan in a phased manner. YAP Phase-I was launcherd in 1993 with the completion period upto the year 2000. However, this phase was extended upto 2003 owing to inclusion of additional works on the directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court as well as by the Government of India . The second phase of YAP was started in December 2004 with the completion period of 5 years.

A total of 269 pollution abatement works pertaining to interception and diversion of sewage, installation of Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs), Low Cost Sanitation, Crematoria, River Front Development, Public Participation and Awareness among others, were taken up in YAP Phase-I at a cost of Rs. 682 crore in 21 towns in the three States of U.P., Haryana and Delhi. A total of 38 STPs having a treatment capacity of 753.25 million litres per day (mid) have been created under this phase.

YAP Phase-II was formulated to take up other pollution abatement works of the river Yamuna, as prioritized by the States. This phase includes, (i) installation/rehabilitation of STPs and rehabilitation/replacement of trunk sewers in Delhi, (ii) installation of STPs, laying of sewer lines and rising mains in Agra, Uttar Pradesh and , (iii) laying of sewer in six towns